

AS A TEENAGER, GWEN STACY WAS BITTEN BY A MUTATED SPIDER. THE BITE TRANSFORMED HER, GRANTING HER AMAZING POWERS: A PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED AND STRENGTH OF A SPIDER. BUT THOSE GIFTS WERE TAKEN AWAY WHEN A SUPER VILLAIN FURTHER TAMPERED WITH HER GENETICS, AND GWEN HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO EMBRACE A SYMBIOTIC PARASITE CALLED VENOM TO RESTORE THEM. TO THE RESIDENTS OF NEW YORK, SHE IS THE DANGEROUS OUTLAW CALLED SPIDER-WOMAN, BUT YOU KNOW HER AS...



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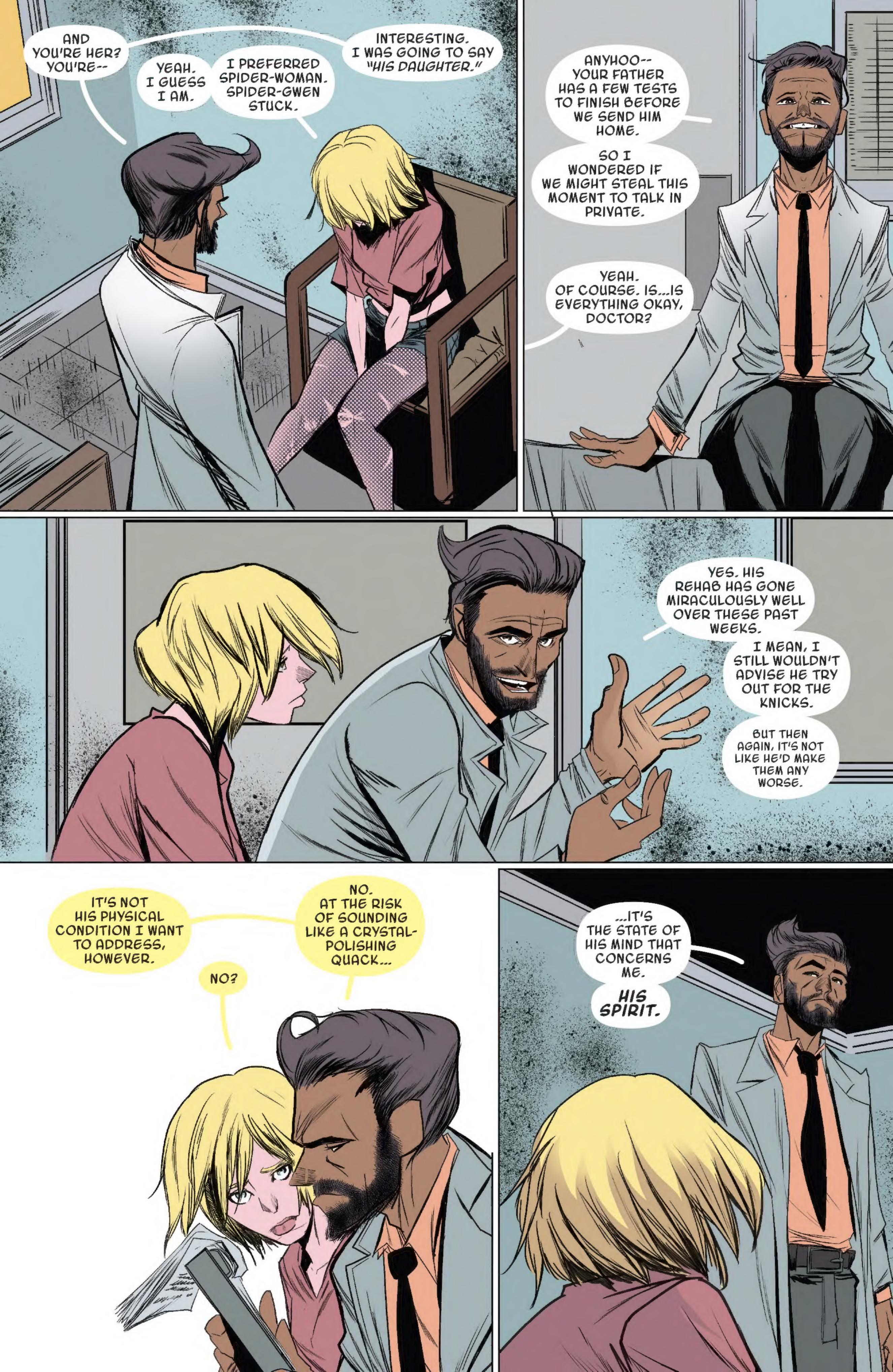
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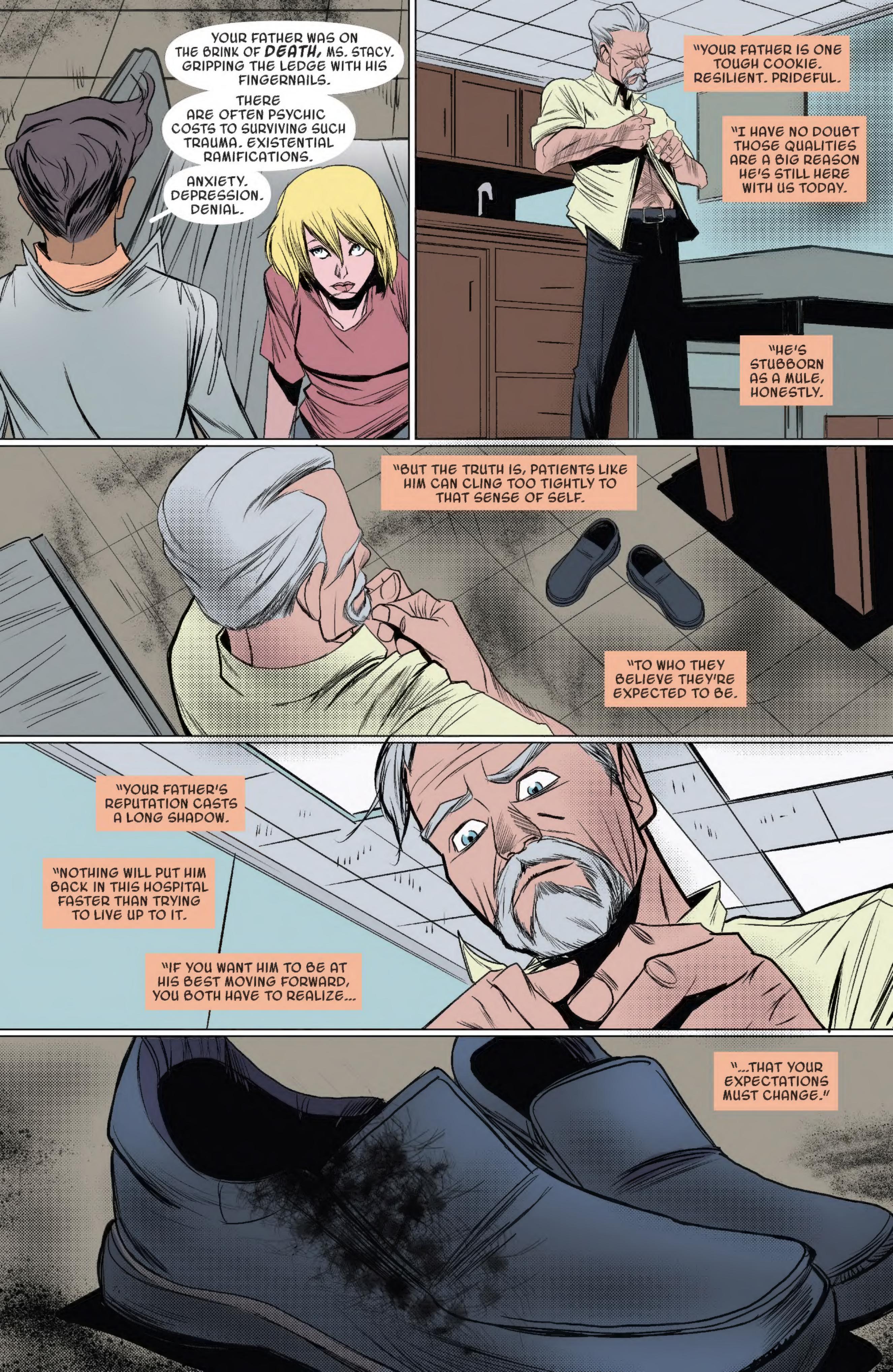
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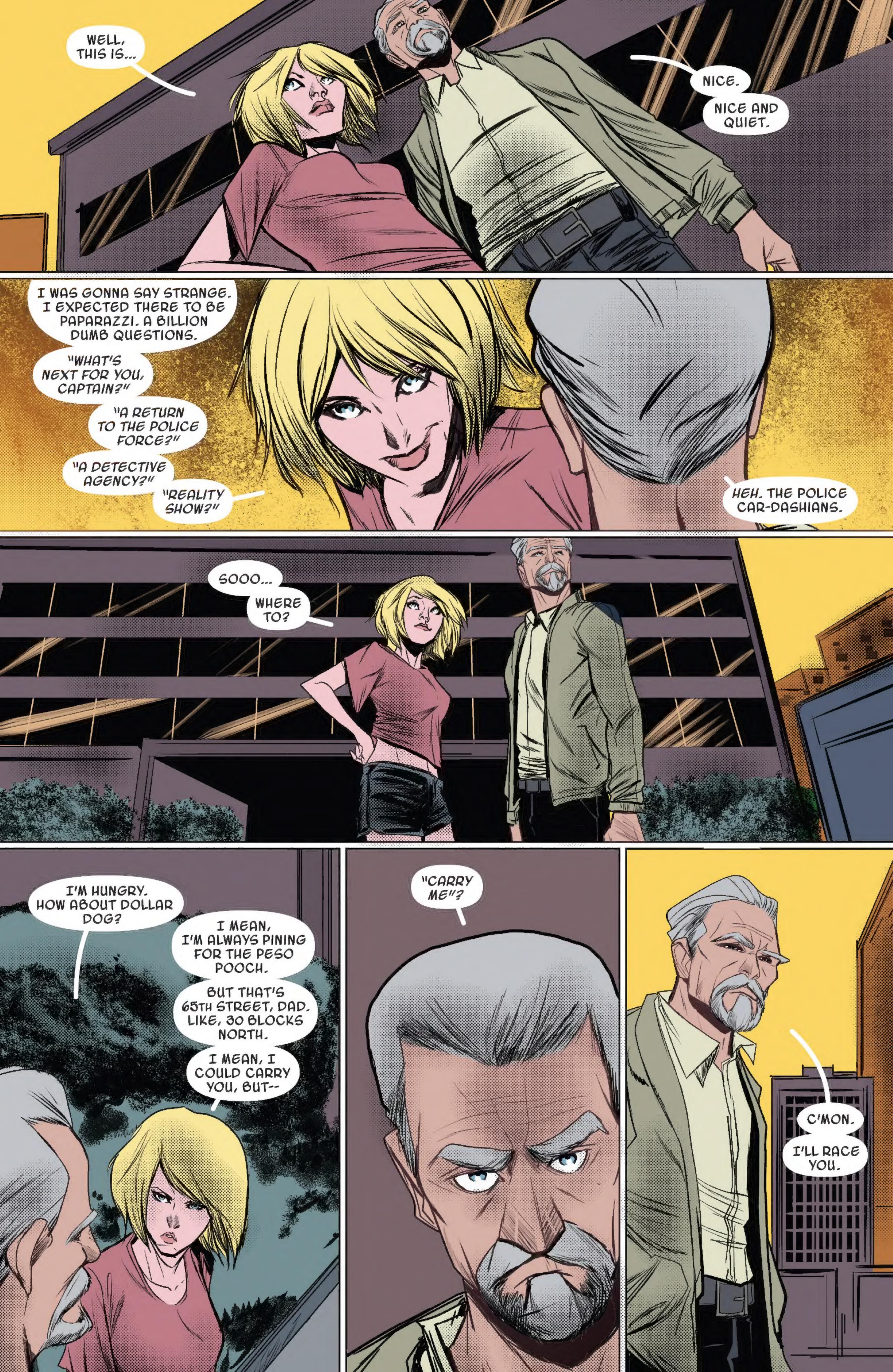
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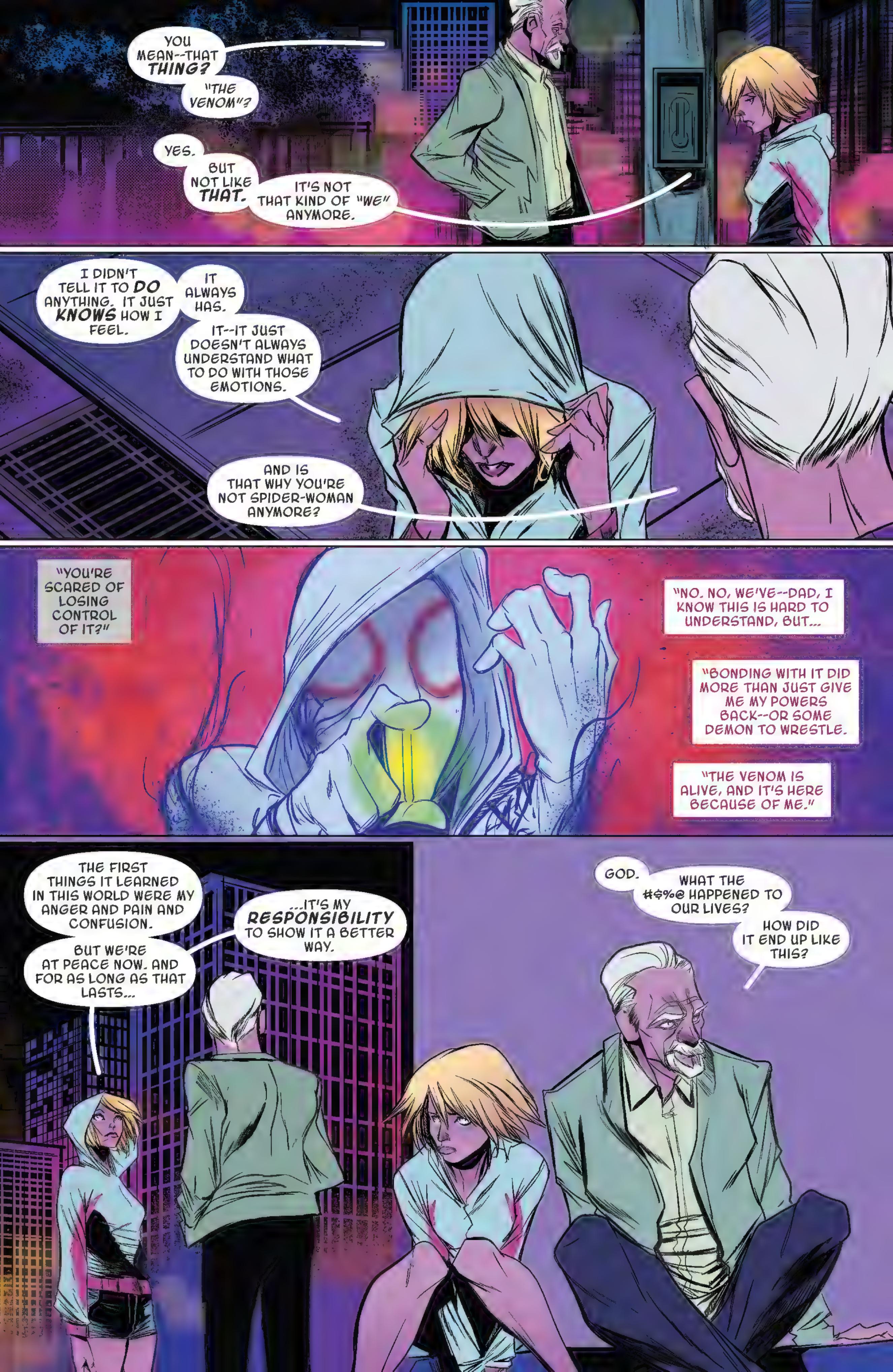








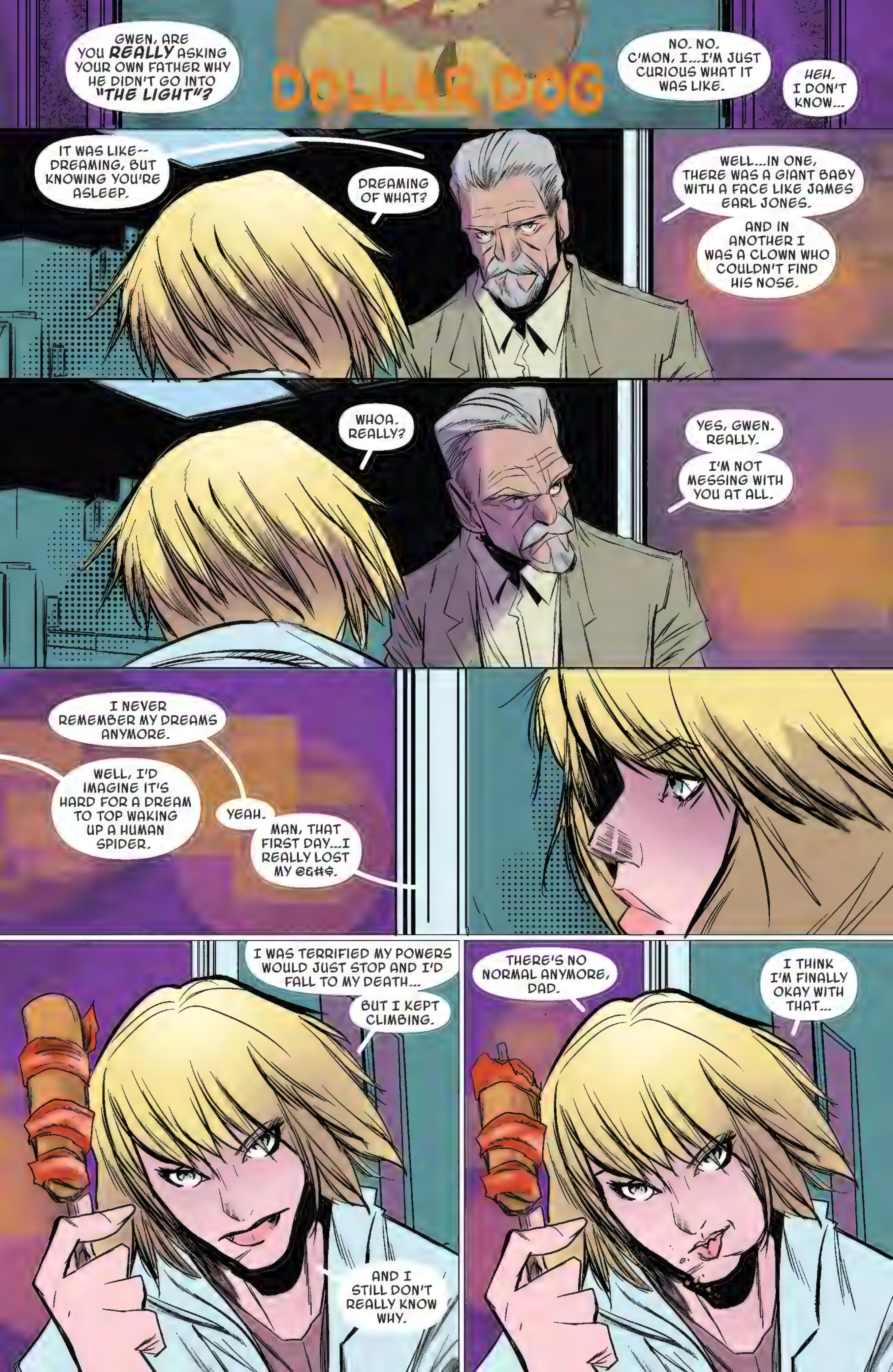






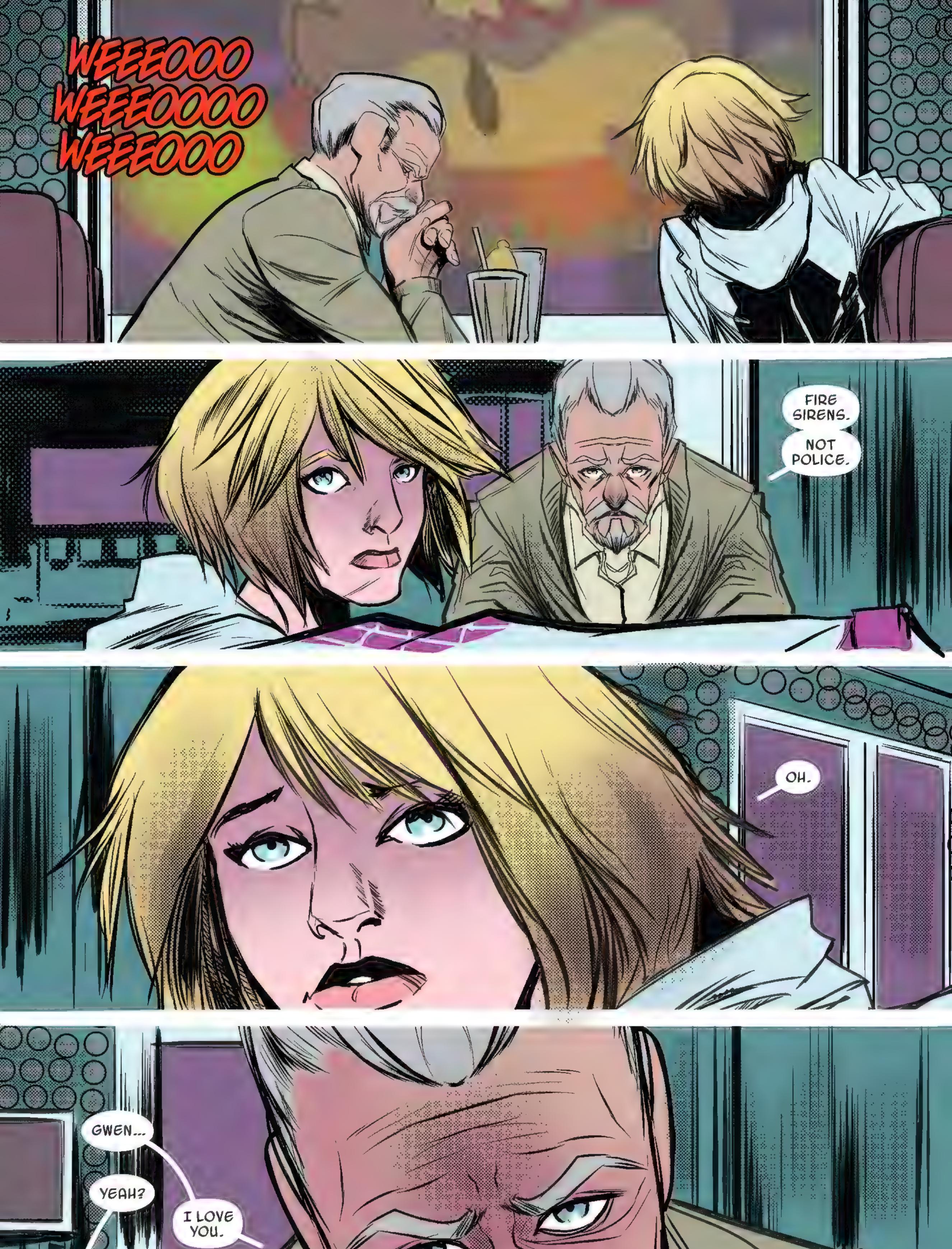


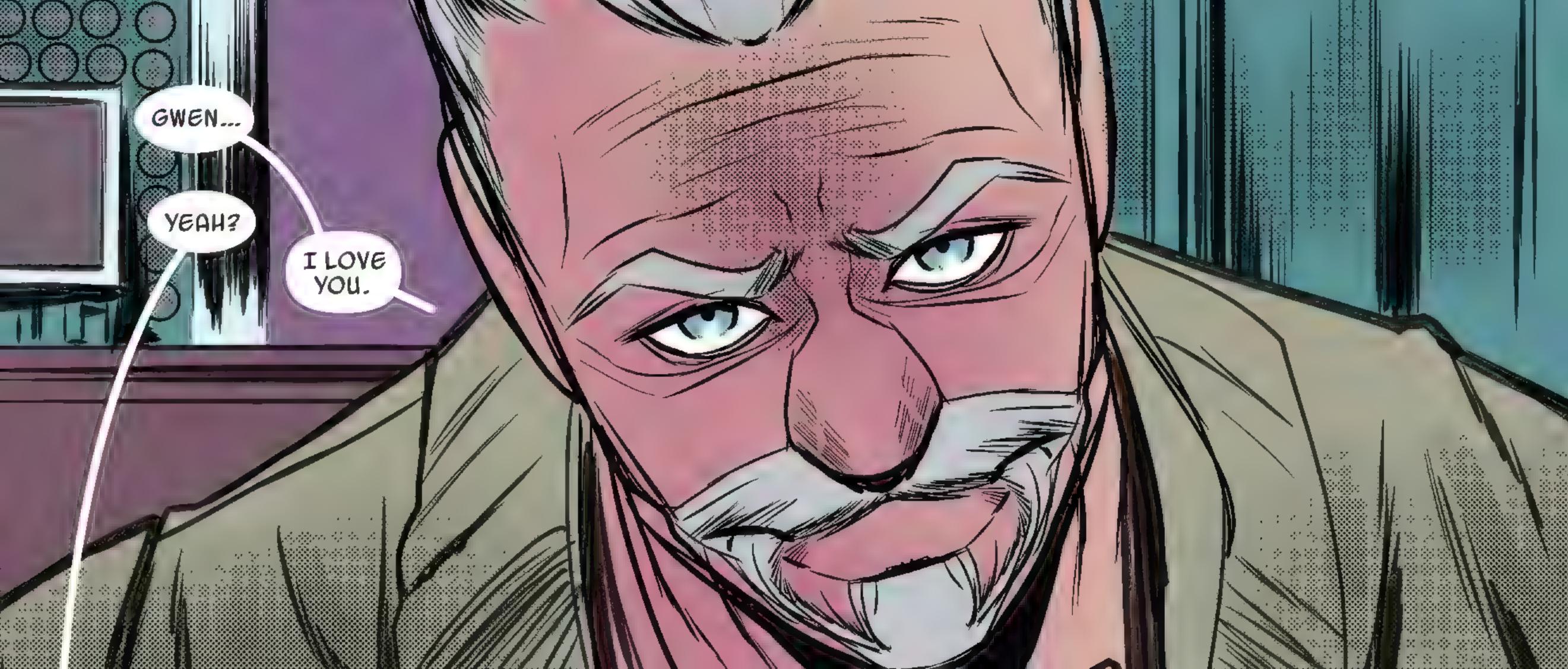






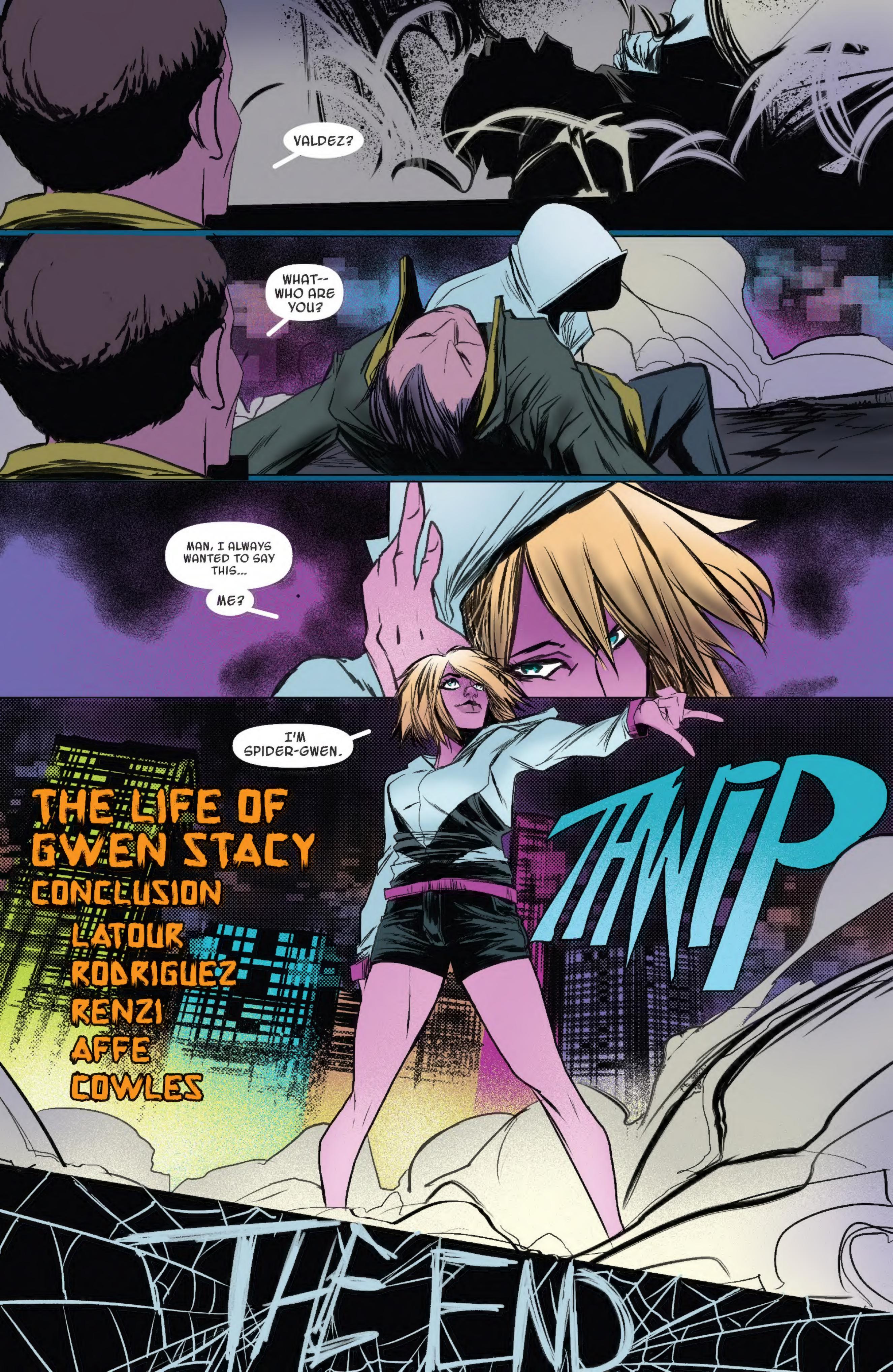












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Hello, in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! Earth-65 Editor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from Marvel HQ in the heart of New York. As I type this, it's an absolute scorcher--SUMMER IS FINALLY HERE!

I dunno about you readers out there in Mighty Marveldom, but for me, especially when I was younger, summer was always bittersweet. I can't think of a time in my life more filled with wonder, excitement and fun. But those nights were also fraught with the ups and downs of being an adolescent. The two-a-day practices with the high school football team. That gnawing feeling at the back of my head that summer would almost be gone and that anxiety that came with trying to capitalize on every last second.

And so I can think of no season more fitting than this for us to say goodbye to Gwen Stacy and her cast of supporting characters--friend and foe alike--from Earth-65.

It was summer, too, when planning for Gwen-65's first appearance started to swirl amidst the earliest stages of SPIDER-VERSE. I was the editorial assistant in the Spider-Man office at the time, and I'll never forget how slack-jawed I felt (and must have looked!) when Ellie Pyle and Nick Lowe brought me up to speed on how the event was shaping up--and all of the new Spiders that were about to be introduced to the Marvel Multiverse, including one Gwendolyn Stacy of Earth-65.

At the time, I thought it was sacrilege. It had been my long-held belief, as a child of the '90s, that Mary Jane Watson was Peter Parker's true love. As a rookie here in the offices I had only just begun to get wise to the fact that it is in fact Gwen who should be the bearer of that particular title.

The idea of Gwen Stacy alive struck me as crazy! And crazier still, reimagining her as a Spider-Woman?! And a multiversal one at that?!

Surely, Gwen Stacy should be treated with more reverence.

Fortunately, I was just an editorial assistant at the time and mine was not the deciding vote, because what a wonderful story and world we would have missed if it had been.

It was Nick and Ellie who shepherded Gwen, and the rest of SPIDER-VERSE, into the world, but it was Jason Latour, Robbi Rodriguez and Rico Renzi who were, almost magically, able to craft an incredibly exciting introduction to Gwen's world, her family and even her origin story in EDGE OF SPIDER-VERSE #2.

It's a tough thing in super hero comics to make these characters who, to us mortals, seem larger than life and are paragons of virtue.

And yet, this Gwen was wonderfully human.

Vulnerable. Through the alchemy of comic books, Jason, Robbi and Rico were able to put their own unique, modern spin on a character who has appeared in Spider-Man stories, quite literally, since before mankind landed on the moon.

That's a testament not only to the creativity, collaborative spirit and hard work of everyone involved, but to Gwen herself, as well. Because in an event story that hinged on the deaths of dozens of Spider-Men and -Women alike, Gwen was among the special things that came OUT of that story (Along with SP//DR! And WEB-WARRIORS! Oh, my sweet, sweet Web-Warriors...) and bounded into our hearts, the Marvel Universe and, soon, your television sets as part of MARVEL RISING.

Maybe it's the headband. Maybe it's because she's a drummer in a band. Or maybe it's that vaporwave costume. Whatever it is that brought you to Earth-65, I'm sure glad so many of you stayed for the long haul.

But I'm not the only one! Some of the creative team wanted Gwen to get a proper send-off, too, and to thank all you Gwen-Heads who were with us from the jump.

Over and out! Devin 6.20.2018

The impossible has happened. I don't know what to say. I thought when I sat down to write this that one of those big, dumb, sappy Gwen Stacy speeches would just pour out. That all the things I have left to say would crystalize into the perfect goodbye.

But maybe it's fitting that I can't quite get it there. That it doesn't end with a perfect bow. SPIDER-GWEN was always about taking chances. Risk was the whole point. And even now with her story told, she's reaching out to tell me there are challenges ahead. That maybe it'll never be over.

So instead of goodbye, I'll just say THANK YOU.

Thank you to Robbi and Rico. I know there were times when it was impossibly hard. How much you put into it and how much you bled for it. I will never forget that all this happened because you said "yes" when I asked you to help me. I'm eternally grateful to you both. And I hope you find the kind of success ahead that makes this just a blip on the radar. Just know I'm always your fan. That I love y'all.

Thank you, Nick Lowe, Devin Lewis, Kathleen Wisneski and Allison Stock for all your tireless support and never-ending patience. To Clayton Cowles for the letters and words that bridge the gap between what we imagine and what you take in. To every creator who contributed to Gwen's

story both within and without these pages. Thanks for picking us up when we were down, or inspiring us to do better when we needed a lift.

Thank you to the readers and fans--we may have written and drawn and colored what Gwen thinks and says and does, but she BREATHES because of you. It's been one of the great thrills of my life to connect with you all--the countless folks who tell me it was their first comic or the first one to bring them back. It's very strange to make some of you sad. But I'm truly grateful you are.

I know this comic wasn't perfect. But I do believe it was honest. We didn't have the answers. But we were always in pursuit of better questions.

It's my truest hope that Gwen lives on. That she can grow and change and permute. That the folks who get to tell her stories after us can find a way to challenge us and her further.

At a convention a couple of weeks back, a little girl stood in a line of gruff old *Southern Bastards* fans to tell me Gwen was her hero because she gave Bodega Bandit her guinea pig when he was sad.

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I'd hear something like that. I'm not sure what I did to deserve it, that I have or that I ever will. But thank you for letting me try. Till next time...

Love, Jason Latour

Thanks for sticking with us! It's been a pleasure putting our twist on the Spider-Mythos. The rare privilege of working a Marvel book with the same creative team for this long is not lost on me. The fact that the team happened to be some of my oldest and dearest friends made it that much sweeter. The support of our readers has been amazing, and I look forward to seeing new spins on our Earth-65 creations.

Rico

SPIDER-GWEN got me an Eisner nomination, so thanks to the team for having me on, and thanks to you for reading!

Clayton

Hours away from our deadline to ship SPIDER-GWEN #34 to the printer, Robbi is still working to make this issue as stunning as possible. We're out of time to run his message here, but it will be printed in future collections. Be sure to follow Robbi, Jason, Rico and Clayton on social media for thoughts on Gwen and to learn what's next for them. You know it's going to be amazing. As a fan, I'm grateful to this team for SPIDER-GWEN. As someone who worked on the book in a small capacity, allow me to once again thank you, readers, for joining us.

Kathleen



SPIDER-GWEN WILL RETURN IN

SPIDE SEEDING

